

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1/ A drive device for a machine tool, the device comprising in a structure:

- a line of inlet shafts;
- 5       - first and second angle takeoffs each having a respective outlet shaft perpendicular to the line of inlet shafts; and
- each outlet shaft being coupled to the inlet of a reversible gearbox whose outlet shaft carries a pinion,
- 10     the two pinions being for meshing with a rack,
- wherein the line of inlet shafts comprises two shafts in alignment that are coupled together end to end by a torque transmission member that is elastically deformable in torsion, possessing declutchable means for
- 15     connection in rotation to at least one of the shafts, and wherein the other end of said shaft is provided with releasable engagement means enabling it to be turned.

20     2/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the shafts of the line of inlet shafts and the angle takeoffs and their cases are identical.

25     3/ A device according to claim 2, wherein the coupling ends of the two shafts of the line of inlet shafts are identical.

30     4/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the structure comprises a main element that is substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped with the line of inlet shafts extending along one of its faces and with the outlet pinions projecting from the opposite face parallel to the preceding face, the other four faces forming faces suitable for fixing the device to a machine tool.

35     5/ A device according to claim 1, wherein, with the exception of the structure and the torque transmission

member, the drive and support members relating to either pinion, including said pinion, are identical to the corresponding members relating to the other pinion.

- 5    6/ A device according to claim 1, including an oiling pinion mounted loose on the structure between the two said pinions.